BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 10-48 December 3rd, 2010

- **Unemployment in BC is down marginally**
- **Third quarter wages and salaries are up**
- **Canada's GDP continues to grow**

Labour Force Survey

- **British Columbia's jobless rate dropped 0.5 percentage (*seasonally adjusted*) points to 6.9% in November.** This marks the first time BC's unemployment rate has been below 7.0% since January 2009. However, the improvement in the jobless rate resulted primarily from persons exiting the labour market (-7,900; -0.3%), virtually all youths (aged 15 to 24), rather than employment growth (+4,300; +0.2%). Among adults (aged 25 and over), the jobless rate edged up slightly (+0.2 percentage points), to 6.3%.

  In the goods-producing sector, employment was up slightly in November (+1.2%) as forestry, fishing, mining, oil & gas (+7.6%), construction (+1.1%) and manufacturing (+0.9%) all saw job gains. In the services-providing sector, the number of jobs edged down (-0.1%) in November. Employment increases in business, building & other support services (+3.3%) and accommodations & food services (+3.1%) were more than offset by declines in transportation & warehousing (-4.3%), professional, scientific & technical services (-3.8%), and public administration (-3.1%). The remaining service sector industries showed little change in November.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **While the jobless rate (3-month moving average, unadjusted), among BC's non-Aboriginal adult (aged 25 and over) population has fallen in the past year, the rate among the same-age off-reserve Aboriginal population has increased.** The jobless rate among non-Aboriginal adults fell from 6.1% in November 2009 to 5.7% in November 2010—among Aboriginal adults the rate increased from 10.4% to 13.9%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **At the regional level, unemployment rates (3-*month moving average, unadjusted*) ranged from 5.8% in Vancouver Island/Coast to 8.8% in Kootenay.** Compared to the same time last year, the jobless rate in Vancouver Island/Coast has fallen by 2.0 percentage points. In Victoria, the region's largest metropolitan area, the unemployment rate improved from 7.1% in November 2009 to 5.8% in November 2010. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Nationwide, a fall in the number of persons in the labour force (-0.2%) and a marginal increase in employment (+0.1%) caused the jobless rate to drop 0.3 percentage points to 7.6%.** Ontario was the only province to register notable employment gains (+0.5%), while employment declined in Newfoundland & Labrador (-0.6%), Manitoba (-0.5%), and Quebec (-0.4%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Wages, salaries and benefits earned by BC workers continued to rise (+0.5%, *seasonally adjusted*) in the third quarter.** The national increase was almost twice as strong (+0.9%), with quarterly labour income growing consistently through 2010. Quebec (+1.1%), Ontario (+1.1%) and Northwest Territories (+1.5%) also showed strong growth.

  Quarterly growth in BC resulted mainly from an increase in September (+0.5%), since labour income was flat in July (0.0%) and August (0.0%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Residential construction investment in the province continued to climb in the third quarter.** Total spending was up 21.8% *(unadjusted)* from the same quarter of 2009, marking the third quarter of year-over-year increases.

Report **Health Profiles, June 2010**

Did you know...

When cold and flu season approaches, more than twice as many Canadians take vitamins and minerals (30%) rather than get a flu shot (12%) to help strengthen their immune system.

Source: Ipsos Canada

Spending on new construction projects soared (+35.8%) and renovation expenditures were up 8.8%.

PEI (-4.1%) and Saskatchewan (-1.3%) were the only provinces to record declines in residential investment. Nationally, spending was up 20.1%, mostly due to strength in Alberta (+32.5%), BC, Ontario (+20.7%) and Quebec (+16.5%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Sales at British Columbia's food services and drinking places rose 1.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) to $651 million in September.** Nationally, industry sales inched up (+0.1% to $4.1 billion) with only Ontario (-0.6%) and Alberta (-0.1%) recording lower revenues. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Compared to the same month last year, British Columbia's total lumber production was up 14.1% in September.** While output at Coastal mills climbed a notable 10.4%, the production boost at Interior mills was even more substantial (+14.6%). On a year-to-date basis, lumber production in BC has jumped by nearly one-quarter. (+20.3%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Agriculture

- **Last year, BC farmers earned an average of 10 cents for every dollar's worth of sales.** Average operating revenues per farm (for farms with at least $10,000 in revenues) were $349,494, of which $ 315,796 went to cover operating expenses. This means that a typical BC farm had net earnings of $ 33,698 in 2009. Nationally, the average farm earned $47,275 in operating income. Although Canadian potato farming generated the highest net income ($214,693), other types of farms showed a bigger margin-to-sales ratio. Operating margins for oilseed and grain farmers were the highest, at 25 cents for every dollar of revenue, and dairy farming had the second highest margin rate (21). Operating margins were lowest for hog (3) and cattle farmers (5). BC was home to five percent (9,060 farms) of the nation's farms in 2009. *Source: Statistics Canada*

The Nation

- **Canada's economy continued to expand (+0.3%, *seasonally adjusted*) in the third quarter as consumer, business and government spending on goods and services (+0.9%) remained strong.** Business investment in fixed capital rose (+2.3%), reflecting robust spending on machinery and equipment (+6.5%). However, overall growth was softened by a reduction in foreign purchases of Canadian products (-1.3%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The nation's current account *(seasonally adjusted)* remained in deficit for a fourth consecutive quarter, widening to a record $17.5 billion.** This was largely attributable to the expanding deficit in the trade of goods. Goods exports weakened for the first time since the second quarter of last year, (down $0.7 billion), while imports of goods rose (up $3.6 billion) for the fifth straight quarter. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canadian manufacturers' prices were notably higher (+2.3%) this October than in the same month last year.** An 11.0% year-over-year surge in the price of primary metals, along with a significant price boost for petroleum & coal products (+7.7%) were the largest contributors to the overall increase. Prices for chemicals (+3.7%) and pulp & paper products (+3.2%) also continued to exert inflationary pressure.

  BC softwood lumber prices were 3.8% above 2008 levels. Both Coastal (+1.5%) and Interior (+4.6%) producers received more for their product than they had a year earlier. Meanwhile, prices for BC wood pulp climbed 4.9%.

  Following a solid increase in September (+5.7%), the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) rose another 5.0% in October. Mineral fuels (-2.5%) and wood products (-0.4%) registered the only year-over-year declines. Excluding mineral fuels, the RMPI would have surged 12.2% in October. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

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December 3rd, 2010

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Health Profiles, June 2010

Statistics Canada releases updated Health Profile internet application

In June 2010, Statistics Canada released an updated version of its *Health Profile* internet application. The application can be accessed at: http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/health-sante/82-228/index.cfm?Lang=E

The application features health region data from a number of sources including Statistics Canada's health surveys, administrative data, and the census of population. This product offers free access to a wide range of health statistics for Canada, the provinces, sub-provincial health regions, and heath region peer groups. Within British Columbia, data are available for each of the province's 16 Health Service Delivery Areas.

What type of data is available?

The *Health Profile* provides 74 different indicators in the following topic areas:

- Well-being (e.g., perceived health, perceived life stress);
- Health conditions (e.g., obese, diabetes, mood disorder);
- Health behaviours (e.g., heavy drinking, bike helmet use);
- Health system (e.g., contact with medical doctor in past 12 months);
- Human function (e.g., functional health);
- Accessibility (e.g., influenza immunization, pap smear);
- Environmental factors (e.g., second-hand smoke exposure at home);
- Deaths (e.g., infant mortality, lung cancer, circulatory diseases);
- Personal resources (e.g., sense of community belonging);
- Living and working conditions (e.g., high school graduates, unemployment, low income); and
- Community (e.g., dependency ratio, visible minority population).

What options are there to view the data?

Data can be viewed either as counts (e.g., the number of persons who smoke) or as rates (e.g., the percentage of the population that smokes). Indicators are available for both the population as a whole and separately for males and females.

In addition to data tables, the application allows users to plot data graphically. For many of the available data series, when viewing graphical outputs, users have the additional option of viewing data for specific age categories.

Users who wish to export data may download all or part of the data to a csv (comma-separated values) or tab (tab-separated values) file.

How can the application be used to compare regions?

The application is designed to give quick access to the latest health-related data available for a selected health region, providing the corresponding provincial data by default. However, users can easily select any region of choice for comparison. For example, users can compare one health region to another, one province to another, or one province to the nation as a whole.

Statistics Canada has also defined peer groups (health regions that have similar characteristics), which can also be used for comparative purposes. Users can compare one health region to that region's peer group as a whole, or to another health region within that peer group.

Infoline

December 3, 2010
Issue 10–48

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/2010	% change on one year ago
BC	4,531.0	1.6
Canada	34,108.8	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	191,006	-3.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	161,851	-1.8
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,374	-1.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Sep 2010	3,082	1.5
Merchandise Exports - Sep 2010	2,402	4.1
Retail Sales - Sep 2010	4,814	0.6
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Oct 2010)	one year ago	% change
BC	2.4	1.0
Vancouver	3.0	1.4
Victoria	2.1	0.7
Canada	2.4	1.6
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Nov 2010	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	4.3	
Labour Force - BC	2,499.1	-0.3
Employed - BC	2,326.1	0.2
Unemployed - BC	173.0	-6.5
		Oct 2010
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.9	7.4
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.6	7.9
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Dec 1/2010	Dec 2/2009
Prime Business Rate	3.00	2.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.35	3.60
- 5 year	5.19	5.59
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Dec 1/2010	Dec 2/2009
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0160	1.0468
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9833	0.9522
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Nov 2010	one year ago
BC	818.75	2.0
Canada	828.42	2.1

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Science Related Occupations

How many people work in science-related occupations? Which industries employ them? What's the labour market outlook for workers in these occupations? A recently-released report on science-related occupations explores these issues. On WorkBC site; authored by BC Stats.

http://workbc.ca/docs/BC_Science_Related_Occupations.pdf

Trade Occupations Outlook to 2019

The BC Trade Occupations Outlook report provides an outlook for trade occupations for the province as a whole, as well as for its seven development regions for the period 2009-2019. The analysis is based on a representative list of 15 trade occupations covering 82 separate trades and over 85 percent of active B.C. apprentices as of June 30, 2010. Selected occupations are concentrated in two NOC skill types: Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations (NOC7), and Sales and Service Occupations (NOC6). The occupational forecast included in this report comes from the B.C. Labour Market Outlook: 2009-2019 report, which was produced from B.C.'s new Labour Market Scenario Model.

http://workbc.ca/docs/BC_tradesoccupationoutlook_2009-2019.pdf

Small Business Profile 2010

The 2010 Edition of the annual profile of small business in British Columbia is now available. The report provides information on British Columbia's small businesses, including number of businesses, employment and small business' contribution to the provincial economy.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/sm_bus.asp#sbp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Labour Force Statistics, November 2010
- Earnings & Employment Trends, Nov.2010

Next week

- Exports, October 2010

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